

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 and 12 and incorporate the substance thereof into independent Claim 1. Please also cancel Claims 24 and 28 to 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting printer maintenance in a network environment having a server, at least one network device and a printer, the server containing a plurality of printer configuration files, said method comprising the steps of:

accessing one of the printer configuration files which corresponds to the printer, the configuration file including a plurality of printer maintenance function names and a plurality of printer maintenance commands corresponding to the printer maintenance function names;

generating an HTML-based page corresponding to the printer, the HTML-based page containing each of the printer maintenance function names from the accessed printer configuration file; and

sending the HTML-based page to the network device,
wherein, upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page, the server sends to the printer the printer maintenance command which corresponds to the selected printer maintenance function name, and

wherein each of the printer configuration files includes a plurality of printer maintenance function data sets, wherein each printer maintenance function data set

includes a printer maintenance function name, and a printer maintenance function command parameter, further including a command parameter indicator which, when set to a first value, indicates that the printer maintenance function command parameter is a printer maintenance function command and, when set to a second value, indicates that the printer maintenance function command parameter represents a command file containing a printer maintenance function command.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further including the step of receiving a printer maintenance request from the network device, the printer maintenance request containing a reference to the printer.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the accessing step is performed in response to receipt of the printer maintenance request.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the printer configuration files has a standardized data format.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the standardized data format is an industry standard format.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the standardized data format includes an industry standard format and an extension to the industry standard format.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, wherein the printer maintenance function resource is a file containing image data for incorporation into the HTML-based page.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the image data in the file represents the printer maintenance function name corresponding to the printer maintenance function resource.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, wherein the printer maintenance function command parameter is a printer maintenance function command which is identified by the printer maintenance function name corresponding to the printer maintenance function command parameter.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, wherein the printer maintenance function command parameter represents a command file containing a printer maintenance function command which is identified by the printer

maintenance function name corresponding to the printer maintenance function command parameter.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the interface module is a standardized software module for building an HTML-based page.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the interface module is provided by the operating system of the server.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the interface module is a common gateway interface module.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the selection by the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names is performed by a user of the network device.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the user of the network device selects one of the printer maintenance function names by using a pointing device connected to the network device.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the method is performed in the server.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the network environment is a digital cable network.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 19, wherein the network device is a set top box.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 19, wherein the method is performed in the server which is located in a cable head end of the digital cable network.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the server executes a script to send the printer maintenance command to the printer.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the script is a common gateway interface script.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A network server for supporting printer maintenance in a network environment having at least one network device and a printer, the server containing a plurality of printer configuration files, comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any one of Claims 1 to ~~6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 23-24~~; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

26. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps to support printer maintenance in a network environment having a server, at least one network device and a printer, the server containing a plurality of printer configuration files, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any one of Claims 1 to ~~6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 23-24~~.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps to support printer maintenance in a network environment having a server, at least one network device and a printer, the server containing a plurality of printer configuration files, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any one of Claims 1 to ~~6, 8 to 11, and 13 to 23-24~~.

28. to 32. (Cancelled)